

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

22nd June 2016



Hillcrest Road, Dudley,
West Midlands DY2 7PW

Dear Parents,

We are now well into the second half of the summer term and are just starting to look ahead to the end of the term. This newsletter gives you all of the important dates for the events and activities we have coming up as well as other important information about the school. We look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks as we get closer to the end of the school year.

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Diary Dates

This week: This week is Anti Bullying and Anti-Racism week all week – workshops and activities all week, Equaliteach anti-racism workshops for Key Stage 2

Thursday 23rd June: Year 6 Confirmation Retreat Day – parents welcome from 2.45pm

Friday 24th June: Please donate chocolates and bottles for the stalls at the summer get together, if you can

Friday 24th June: Year 1 Assembly 2.30pm

Sunday 26th June: School and Parish Mass at 11am in Church

Friday 1st July: Please donate cuddly toys for the stall at the summer get together if you can

Friday 1st July: Year 3 Class Assembly 2.30pm

Monday 4th – Friday 8th July: Brilliant in Britain Week: Celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, Great Britain and pride in our country and local area.

Thursday 7th July: Year 6 Confirmation Mass in Church 6.30pm

Friday 8th July: Please donate tea, coffee, long life milk, sugar and biscuits for the summer get together if you can.

Kind hands, kind words...like Jesus

Part of St John Bosco Catholic Academy Company
Registered in England and Wales No. 08608177

Registered office:
Burton Road, Dudley DY1 3BY

Friday 8th July: Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Brilliant in Britain performances at 9.15am (hall opens to parents at 9.15am)

Friday 8th July: Year 3,4,5 and 6 Brilliant in Britain performances at 2.30pm (hall opens to parents at 2.20pm)

Friday 8th July: 3.30pm Summer Get Together after school with some stalls, bouncy castle, café and raffle.

Tuesday 12th July: EYFS Sports Days: These will go ahead in the hall if the weather is wet!

- Morning Nursery from 10.15am – 11.15am
- Reception from 11.15am – 12.15pm
- Afternoon Nursery from 2pm-3pm

Wednesday 13th July: Years 1 to 3 Sports Days: These will go ahead in the hall if the weather is wet!

- Year 1: 9.15am-10.15am
- Year 2: 10.15am – 11.15am
- Year 3: 11.15am-12.15pm

Wednesday 13th July: Optional parents evening for those who would like to discuss their child's report – 3.30pm – 6pm

Thursday 14th July: Years 4 to 6 Sports Days. These will take place in the hall if the weather is wet!

- Year 4: 9.15am-10.15am
- Year 5: 10.15am-11.15am
- Year 6: 11.15am-12.15pm

Thursday 14th July: Sports Day Scores and Winning Team Presentation at 2.45pm

Monday 18th July: Own clothes day for all children. Discos as follows:

- AM and PM Nursery from 1.15pm to 1.45pm
- Years 1 and 2 from 1.45pm to 2.30pm
- Years 3,4 and 5 from 2.30pm to 3.15pm
- Year 6 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm

Please donate £1 towards the cost of the Disco if you can. Thank you.

Tuesday 19th July: Year 6 Leaver's Mass at 9.15am

Tuesday 19th July: Year 6 Graduation at 2pm

Wednesday 20th July: Merit and attendance awards assembly at 11am – all welcome

Wednesday 20th July: Celebration of the school year assembly at 2.15pm – all welcome

Wednesday 20th July: School closes for the Summer Holidays

Monday 5th September: School reopens to pupils at 8.45am for the Autumn Term 2017

Newsletter

Sports Days

If the weather is dry the sports days will take place on the bottom playground. Please make your way to the playground via the gate at the right hand side of the main entrance to the school (alongside Year 4 classroom) where staff will be there to welcome you. Seating will be provided on the bottom playground. We will open the gate from 9.10am each sports day. Nursery and Reception Sports Days will take place in the EYFS play areas so please come along to the gate leading past the hall before the start time and staff will be there to welcome you. If it is raining, all events will take place in the hall – please enter the school via the main entrance.

The children will earn points at each sports day. Every child in school has the opportunity to take part in at least one event if they want to. The totals will be added up and the winning team will be announced at a special assembly on Thursday 14th July at 2.45pm.

Holidays in term time

Despite the recent legal challenge, the law on taking holidays in term time has not changed. Penalty fines and taking children's names off the school register (losing your school place) are still consequences that can arise as a result of taking unauthorised absence. Please see the School's Minister's recent letter to all head teachers in the country for more information (attached)

Parking and Dropping Off outside school

We have received a complaint about parents driving, parking and dropping off in a way that is dangerous to pedestrians and other road users. We are very concerned that a serious accident could occur. Please park, drive and drop off safely. Stopping and dropping off on the yellow zig zag school lines is strictly prohibited and is an offence. We have contacted the Police and PCSOs to ask them to supervise the parking situation at the school so as to ensure everyone's safety. Please take great care at all times and make sure your children are kept very firmly by your side.

Term Dates for 2016/17

The additional training day has been added to the holidays list – this means that school will additionally be closed on Monday 31st October 2016. All other dates are exactly as previously advised. An up to date holidays list is attached for your convenience – please dispose of the previous list.

Year 6 Leavers Trip

In recent years we have gone to London for our Year 6 Leaver's Trip. Currently, with the M15 Terror Status at 'Severe' meaning 'a terrorist attack is highly likely' we feel that there is a greater risk associated with a trip to a major European capital than ever before. As such the Year 6 Leaver's Trip is now going to be to Weston Super Mare for a beach party with deckchairs, buckets and spades, Seaquarium visit with guided tour and Pier visit with free time. Given that the terrorist threat is sadly unlikely to change in coming years it is unfortunately highly unlikely that subsequent year 6 classes will visit London in the foreseeable future. If the Weston trip is a success (which we really hope it will be!) it is likely that the 'beach party' will become the leaver's trip for Year 6 for subsequent years.

Summer Get-Together

After the Brilliant in Britain performances on Friday 8th July we will be holding our Summer Get-Together with a bouncy castle, some stalls, our café and a raffle. If you can, please support us with donations of bottles, chocolates, cuddly toys and tea and coffee. Thanks for your support.

Parentview

Parentview archives your views of the school after 12 months. Unfortunately this means we only have 8 'live' views of our school on the system. For most parents, it's now more than 12 months since you last submitted a review. Please can we encourage you to go on to Parentview and share your views of the school with Ofsted? All we ask is that if you have any problems with the school you let us know first so we can try to put things right. You will need an email address to register and the whole process will take no more than 10 or 15 minutes. We know it is a chore – but it's very important that we have Parentview up to date with your opinions of the school. We would be very grateful if as many parents as possible could spare the time to share your views.

You are welcome in school

Parents are always welcome at our weekly Mass on Tuesdays at 9.15am and our weekly merit assembly on Friday at 2.30pm. We don't often need to cancel and if we do we always send a text to parents.

Keep in touch

At St Joseph's we are absolutely committed to making sure your children are safe and happy. We try our best to prevent any problems from arising but inevitably things can and do go wrong from time to time. If something goes wrong, if there is a problem or if you or your child is unhappy for any reason it is vital you let us know straight away. No problem is too small and the quicker we know about things the quicker we can sort them out.

You can usually see the class teacher at the end of the day. You can call to see myself or Mrs Chapman (Deputy Head) and we will try to see you straight away. You can also call the school and we will phone you back if we can't speak to you straight away. Mr Seex and Mrs Hancox, our senior teachers, are also available to help you.

Never leave any issue – however small – we promise we will do everything we can to resolve problems sympathetically and quickly.

Your child's happiness and safety are very important to us – so please – just let us know.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Hinton,
Principal



Department
for Education

High Court judgment on unauthorised pupil absence

Dear Colleague,

I am writing to set out the Government's position on unauthorised school absence and next steps following the judgment by the High Court on Friday 13 May regarding the case of the *Isle of Wight Council v Jon Platt*.

I am disappointed with the High Court ruling. I am clear that no child should miss school apart from in exceptional circumstances.

Over the past six years, schools and local authorities have taken the lead in reducing overall absence to make sure more children attend school every day. Overall absence in primary, secondary and special schools has been on a downward trend since 2010/11. In particular, since introducing the changes to the regulations in 2013 so that absence is only granted in exceptional circumstances, the rate of absence due to term time holidays has decreased by more than a third.

This is a significant achievement. As you will be aware there is clear evidence that absence from school is linked to lower levels of attainment. The Department's latest analysis published in March shows that every extra day missed was associated with lower attainment at age 11 and at age 16. In other words, every extra day of school that is missed can affect a pupil's chance of gaining good GCSE results.

I wish to advise you on two matters.

1. The High Court's judgment did not establish a hard and fast rule that a pupil's attendance above 90% is regarded as 'regular' attendance. Instead a decision will have to depend on the individual facts of each case. In the Isle of Wight case, for example, the magistrates thought it was a pertinent fact that the school itself had described 90% attendance as 'satisfactory'.

2. We understand that some parents who have already been given penalty notices and have paid the penalty are asking local authorities to withdraw the notices under regulation 8 of the Education (Penalty notices) (England) Regulations 2007 and refund their payments. However, the view of the Department is that the decision in the Isle of Wight case does not require local authorities to do this, and I would expect applications of this kind to be refused in the ordinary course of events. We will set out any additional steps necessary to secure children's attendance at school in due course.

In the meantime, it remains the case - as set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 amended in 2013 - that headteachers continue to have the power to authorise leave of absence, but only in exceptional circumstances. While family holidays are enriching experiences, the school year is designed to give families the opportunity for these breaks without having to disrupt their children's education. It is for schools to consider the specific details and relevant context behind each request. Schools know their pupils best and are well placed to make those judgements.

I am clear that we need to continue reducing absence, building on the success schools and local

authorities have already achieved, to support attainment and ensure all pupils fulfil their potential.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gibb'.

Nick Gibb MP



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St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dudley

Term Dates 2016 – 2017

Summer Term 2016

Wednesday 20th July 2016: Children break up for Summer Holidays (21st is a training day)

2016-2017

Autumn Term 2016

Monday 5th September: School reopens to children

Wednesday 19th October: Children break up for Half Term (20th and 21st are training days)

Tuesday 1st November 2016: School reopens to children (31st is a training day)

Friday 16th December 2016: School closes for Christmas Holidays

Spring Term 2017

Wednesday 4th January 2017: School reopens to children (3rd is a training day)

Friday 17th February 2017: School closes for Half Term

Monday 27th February 2017: School reopens to children

Friday 7th April 2017: School closes for Easter Holidays

Summer Term 2017

Monday 24th April 2017: School reopens to children

Monday 1st May 2017: School is closed for May Day Bank Holiday

Friday 26th May 2017: School closes for Half Term

Monday 5th June 2017: School reopens to children

Friday 21st July 2017: Children break up for Summer Holidays (24th and 25th are training days)